

REMARKS

The Office Action rejected claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, and indicated the remaining claims were allowable. Applicants cancelled claims 2, 15 and 28; amended claims 1, 8, 9, 14, 21, 22 and 27; and added new claims 29-62. Claims 1, 3-14, 16-27 and 29-62 remain. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-7, 14-17, 19, 20, 27 and 28¹ under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)² as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 6,419,446 to Kvasnak *et al.* ("Kvasnak"). Applicants cancelled claims 2, 15 and 28 and modified independent claims 1, 14 and 27 to recite the feature described in the now-cancelled dependent claims. The claims, respectively, now recite, *inter alia*, that the enlarged section of the fillet ends "adjacent [the] gage points." Kvasnak fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. The enlarged fillet of Kvasnak remains generally adjacent the leading edge of the airfoil. *See, e.g.* Col 4, ll. 21-25 and Figure 2. Kvasnak neither discloses nor suggests any placement of the enlarged fillet adjacent the gage points. The remaining cited references fail to provide a motivation for such a modification. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

¹ The rejection should not have included claim 5 (*i.e.* the rejection should only list claims 1-4, 6, 7, 14-17, 19, 20, 27 and 28) since the Office Action later states that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

² Applicants assume the rejection should have been under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) since Kvasnak issued approximately three (3) months before the filing date of the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 10-13 and 23-26 as being unpatentable over Kvasnak. As described above, Kvasnak and the remaining cited references fail to describe or to suggest all of the features of independent claims 1 and 14. For at least this reason, the rejection of these dependent claims should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action objected to claims 5, 8, 9, 18, 21 and 22, but indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication. As described above, Kvasnak and the remaining cited references fail to describe or to suggest all of the features of independent claims 1 and 14. For at least this reason, the objection of these dependent claims should be withdrawn. As will be described in more detail below, Applicants have added new claims that resemble these allowable claims.

Other Claim Amendments

Applicant made several amendments to the claims that were neither in response to an objection or rejection in the Office Action, nor a narrowing amendment made for any purpose related to patentability. None of these amendments introduce new matter. Specifically, Applicants removed the phrase "for use in a gas turbine engine" from claim 1. Applicants removed this phrase, a statement of intended use, as unnecessary for claim 1 to define over the cited references. In claims 8, 9, 21 and 22, Applicants removed the incorrect reference to "distance" and substituted the correct reference to -- height- -. Support for this change appears in original paragraph 36.

Newly Added Claims

Applicants added new claims 29-62. The newly added claims do not introduce new matter.

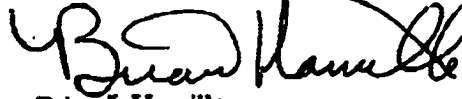
Support for the newly added claims appears in the disclosure as originally filed. Specifically, support for claim 29 appears in original claims 4 and 7, and Figure 4; support for claim 30 appears in original claims 3 and 6; support for claims 31, 37, 42, 47 and 52 appears in original claim 2; support for claims 32, 36 and 55 appears in original (and allowable) claim 5; support for claims 33, 41 and 58 appears in original (and allowable) claim 8 and paragraph 36; support for claims 34, 46 and 59 appears in original (and allowable) claim 9; support for claims 35, 40, 45, 50 and 62 appears in original paragraph 29; support for claims 38 and 53 appears in original claim 3; support for claim 39 appears in original claim 4; support for claims 43, 48 and 56 appears in original claim 6; support for claims 44, 49 and 57 appears in original claim 7; support for claim 51 appears in original claims 12 and 13; support for claim 54 appears in original claim 4 and Figure 4; support for claim 60 appears in original claim 10; and support for claim 61 appears in original claim 11. The claims define inventions that are patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections and objections. Applicants solicit the allowance of claims 1, 3-14, 16-27 and 29-62 at an early date.

Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the \$558 fee ($31 \times 18 = \558) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 (c) for the presentation of claims in excess of twenty and \$430 fee ($5 \times 86 = \430) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 (b) for independent claims in excess of three or for any other fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 17, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account Number 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian J. Hamilla

Registration Number 38,482

Attorney for Applicants

Pratt & Whitney
Patent Department
Mail Stop 132-13
400 Main Street
East Hartford, CT 06108
Voice: 860.557.1089

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